





## Mortars fired at U.N. troops in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Fighters apparently allied with one of Somalia's main warlords fired mortars at U.N. troops at the capital's airport, officials said Friday. No one was hurt.

The 500-man Pakistani battalion is in Somalia under U.N. auspices to protect humanitarian aid shipments from clan-based militias and independent bandits.

Four to six mortar rounds were fired at the troops' camp Thursday night, but all missed their target, U.N. officials said.

Just after the attack, U.N. envoy Ismat Kittani said the troops would stay at the airport despite demands for their withdrawal by Gen. Mohammed Farrah Aidid, the warlord who controls Somalia's south, where the country's famine is worst.

Gen. Aidid says the U.N. troops are an unwarranted foreign intervention and opposes the world body's plans to deploy another 3,000 soldiers.

The Pakistanis are camped in tents in a narrow area surrounded by hills and sand dunes on the northern edge of Mogadishu's International Airport, bordering the Indian Ocean.

A U.N. official speaking on condition of anonymity said the shells appeared to have been fired from a nearby military base occupied by Gen. Aidid's clan militia.

He said one shell burst atop a

high sand dune overlooking the Pakistani camp and the others apparently dropped onto the nearby beach or into the sea.

A Pakistani officer, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said he and his men did not see where the shells came from and did not return fire.

It was the second time U.N. forces have come under fire from Gen. Aidid's militia since 180 of them were deployed to guard the airport on Nov. 10.

Gen. Aidid had agreed to their deployment, but reneged and demanded their withdrawal on Nov. 12. He underlined his demand that day with a brief machine gun and rifle attack. The Pakistanis responded by shooting in the air, and none was hurt.

Central authority in Somalia dissolved after rebels overthrew Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991 and then fell to fighting each other. The violence exacerbated a regional drought and led to one of history's cruellest famines.

By U.N. estimates, as many as 300,000 people already have died and 2 million more are at imminent risk of starving to death.

An international effort to feed the starving has been severely crippled by banditry, looting and clan warfare. Some officials estimate as much as half of the 220,000 tonnes of food delivered to Somalia has been stolen.

The Security Council and U.N. chief are blaming each other for the delay in getting food to Somalia, where thousands are dying of disease and starvation.

Lack of security is the main problem. In a land where government has collapsed, clan-based gunmen provide the only "order." Even humanitarian aid workers must hire them for protection.

The Security Council has told U.N. officials and peacekeepers to cooperate with "Somali authorities," but these are the same clans looting the food, and they want no new guards to keep them from the booty.

One key warlord, Gen. Aidid, threatened to send 3,000 U.N. peacekeepers home in body bags if they come to Somalia.

Mogadishu's airport has finally been secured by 500 Pakistani peacekeepers, but they have not yet taken control of the sea port, and gunmen keep extorting "docking fees."

U.N. envoy Ismat Kittani told reporters Thursday in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, "The resolutions of the Security Council and the mandate talk about...Somali authorities. Authority...does not exist. In some cases, the authority is no more than three or four people with guns."

Mr. Kittani's predecessor, Mohammed Sahnoun, resigned in October after being reprimanded

for openly criticising the U.N. relief operation as slow and inadequate.

The Security Council could change peacekeepers' orders, letting them shoot to defend their mission — the orders under which U.N. troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina now operate. But then they would not be cooperating with the "authorities."

Security Council ambassadors and the office of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali are duking responsibility for the founding aid effort. Each says it is up to the other to initiate new orders.

Part of the reason that the world finally focused on the disaster earlier this year was Dr. Ghali's scathing criticism of the Security Council, which he accused of focusing on a "rich man's war" in Yugoslavia while ignoring the plight of the Somalis.

In a statement on Nov. 13, Dr. Ghali implicitly blamed delays on the Security Council's instructions.

"I wish to emphasise on this occasion that the mandate of the United Nations operation remains unchanged. We are making an intensive effort to secure the consent of the Somali authorities concerned for the deployment of the U.N. security force."

Dr. Ghali said, and again noted that this was "the mandate put forward by the Security Council."

Sills said, "It is absolutely clear that the mandate of (the peacekeepers) is set by the Security Council. If there are problems with that mandate, it is up to the Security Council to change that."

Security Council ambassadors reply that they cannot act on a problem if the secretary-general's office has not officially brought it to their attention.

"I think we're all frustrated. Everything that is being tried does not help us to solve the first problem, which is to get things into Somalia to help save the population," U.S. Ambassador Edward J. Perkins said.

Ambassador Jose Luis Jesus of Cape Verde, who presided over the council when the peacekeeping mission received its orders, said, "You cannot allow the people to be killed just because one man does not want to cooperate. Therefore we should go, and if attacked, defend."

"But we have to elicit from the secretary-general a report telling us...these people don't agree, take measures." Nothing is coming from them.

Key U.S. officials arranged to meet Friday to try to get President George Bush to break the deadlock by leaning on the Security Council and U.N. chief to send in the peacekeepers with new orders.

## Iraq says ban on foreign goods is limited

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, seeking to reassure traders worried about their livelihoods, said Friday that only about a fifth of foreign goods available in the country will be banned under new guidelines.

"Only 146 commodities out of a total of 687 have been cancelled," Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh told Reuters in an interview about Iraq's plan to drastically curb imports in order to save precious foreign exchange.

"This means that only about 22 per cent of foreign goods have been deleted. At present businessmen can trade in 78 per cent of the items they were dealing with in the past."

Three months ago, the government clamped a ban on the import and trade of foreign luxury goods and placed a 10 per cent profit margin on imports.

Traders were told that Nov. 20 was the deadline for clearing prohibited items from their shelves

and warehouses but Thursday the deadline was extended until Dec. 10.

People have gone on a buying spree stocking up on freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners and other appliances they figured would disappear from stores. Baghdad markets are awash in French perfumes, Swiss watches and costume jewelry.

The government, groaning under U.N.-imposed Gulf War sanctions that have cut off Iraqi oil exports, said it had to preserve its resources of foreign exchange.

Mr. Saleh said \$1 million left Iraq every day just to pay for imported cigarettes, now banned under the new trade regulations.

"What Iraq paid for cigarettes every day was more than what it paid for food," he said.

The new economic guidelines are part of a plan of action announced by President Saddam Hussein last August. A Crack-

down launched by the government then on profiteering and illegal hoarding led to the execution of 42 traders.

As a result, many traders shun business and the government has had little success in trying to coax them back.

Mr. Saleh urged traders to boost imports of permitted items which he said were useful to industry.

As an example, he said ready-to-wear clothes were banned but traders could import cloth, sewing machines and accessories.

Mr. Saleh said trade priorities had to be revised after 28 months of a blanket U.N. trade embargo clamped in response to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. He said the government would be flexible with traders wishing to work under the new guidelines.

"Traders have a high degree of flexibility. They can adapt to the (new) conditions and embark on

trade in the list of (permitted) goods."

But an Iraqi economist in an unsigned article this week in the newspaper Babel, owned by Mr. Hussein's son Uday, warned of "disastrous impacts on the national economy" if the ministry went ahead with its new measures.

Traders, most of whom have taken a wait-and-see attitude, say the instability of the Iraqi dinar and strict government control of commerce were discouraging factors.

Since the government announced its new economic policy, the dinar has slumped to about 30 to the dollar from 17.

A presidential statement warned traders of court action if they did not get rid of banned items by Dec. 10. Conviction of economic sabotage is punishable by confiscation of property, long jail terms or death.

## Turkish forces to stay in Iraq for now

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey has indicated that its forces would control, along with Iraqi Kurds, a border area in northern Iraq to prevent the return of Turkish Kurdish guerrillas.

The semi-official Anatolia News Agency carried an announcement by Gen. Esref Bitlis, a high-ranking military official, who gave the first clear indication that some Turkish units would remain in northern Iraq following a recent cross-border military operation.

"From now on, we (Turks and the Iraqi Kurds) will jointly control the operation area (in northern Iraq). We will establish a control system which will not allow the activities of the PKK (the Kurdistan Workers Party of the guerrillas) along the border from Syria to Iran," Anatolia quoted Gen. Bitlis as saying.

Gen. Bitlis' statement came after he met with two Iraqi Kurdish leaders, Jalal Talabani and Masoud Barzani, at the Turkish border town of Semdinli for the second time in a week.

Gen. Bitlis said a joint coordination team would oversee the implications of the security measures, which include the establishment of military posts in northern Iraq.

Turkey's military Chief of Staff Gen. Dogan Gures said earlier that about 60-70 military posts would be built in northern Iraq and that the Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas would be in charge to keep the Turkish rebels from infiltrating across the border.

The PKK has been fighting for self-rule in southeastern Turkey since 1984, attacking attacks from bases in northern Iraq.

About 5,000 Turkish troops moved into northern Iraq last month to crack down on the PKK bases.

Gen. Gures said the Turkish troops have started gradually pulling out of northern Iraq.

Mr. Barzani said the talks with the Turkish commander was "very satisfactory," according to Anatolia.

## N. Korea, Iran swap arms for oil, Seoul says

SEOUL (R) — Impoverished North Korea bartered Scud missiles for Iranian oil last year, a South Korean government-funded trade organisation said Thursday.

The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said North Korea traded 100 remodeled

Scuds for \$120 million of crude oil. Pyongyang also signed a treaty with Tehran pledging to barter arms for \$300 million worth of oil a year in the future but further details were unavailable.

Iran is now North Korea's fourth largest trading partner after China, Japan and the Com-

monwealth of Independent States (CIS), the KOTRA report said. But a KOTRA official said Iranian interest in North Korean missiles appeared to be waning due to quality problems.

"North Korea has suffered from severe economic difficulties as economic cooperation with the

former Soviet Union and East European countries has been cut off," the official said in the report.

South Korean analysts said the former Soviet Union and its East European satellites had accounted for about 60 per cent of North Korea's trade.

## Qadhafi unveils spread-the-wealth plan for oil billions

CAIRO (AP) — Greeted by chants of "long live the leader," Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has unveiled a plan to distribute half of Libya's oil wealth in cash grants to the people.

"From the beginning of the year, each family will have an account of seven to 10 thousands in hard currency without offering anything in return," Col. Qadhafi said in a speech telecast across Libya.

"This might be unusual, but it will be a fact."

The Libyan leader disclosed his spread-the-wealth plan at the final session of the General People's Congress, which ended just after midnight. Under Col. Qadhafi's unique "Jamahiriya" or "republic of the masses" system, the congress in theory runs the country.

He put the scheme before the nation as talk persists in New York that the United Nations might expand punitive sanctions against Libya to include an oil

embargo.

That would cripple a country that derives 95 per cent of its income from oil. And if in the meantime Col. Qadhafi implemented his cash-distribution programme, he is likely to achieve major propaganda gains by telling his people the West was cheating them of their money.

Libya says sanctions in effect since April, which ban international air travel and arms sales and curtail diplomatic relations, have cost \$2.4 billion. The U.N. Security Council is trying to force the surrender to the United States or Britain of two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Scotland that killed 270 people.

A communiqué closing the congress called the sanctions disastrous but repeated already-rejected Libyan conditions for complying with U.N. orders.

But the communiqué said

Libya "has neither the time nor the intention of committing any aggression or entering into conflict with the big powers."

The Libyan News Agency (JANA) said congress delegates interrupted Col. Qadhafi's address with chants of "long live the leader" and slogans praising his political system.

Oil brings Libya something more than \$9 billion a year. Nevertheless, the country is in serious straits financially from years of massive spending on arms and big-ticket projects like Col. Qadhafi's \$20-billion Great Manmade River.

In the speech, unmonitored in London, Col. Qadhafi told the delegates:

"The oil is supposed to belong to all Libyans. Consequently, we cannot say to someone, 'you are the son of so and so and your share is less.' That is not possible."

Oil revenues would be divided into two parts, Col. Qadhafi said, one to finance "health, education, industry, agriculture and other (things)."

"As for the rest...there will be no salaries, no employees and no public services. Now, after we spend on the factories and other necessary needs, what remains will be divided among Libyan families in cash."

Col. Qadhafi's mention of financing health and education and his edict of no public services and no employees could not be reconciled.

He said each family will have full access to its money, "providing you do not ask to receive it all in one go."

"You can withdraw from it according to what is available at the bank. But even if there is a delay, it will be effectively put into your account and no one can touch it."



A Somali starving refugee looks at some 2,500 others who arrived in Aden at the end of a journey across the sea to escape war and famine (photo).

## Lebanon's poor pin hopes on Hariri

By Haitham Haddadin

Beirut — In the dark, rat-infested ruins of Beirut, hope flickers. Thousands of refugees are pinning their hopes of salvation on Lebanon's new billionaire prime minister.

Those with little left to lose after 15 years of civil war and a postwar economic collapse see Rafik Hariri as a long-awaited saviour.

Muhsina Abu Baker has lived with her family in a cramped, shell-boled office near martyrs' squares — the shattered heart of Beirut — since the war ended in 1990. Her husband makes as little as the equivalent of \$2 per day when he can find work as a labourer.

"I ask Hariri to care for us as he came to save people from poverty and misery," says Muhsina. "We are miserable. This is a ghost town but we had no choice. Now all we want is a good roof over our heads."

Like most Lebanese, Muhsina thinks Hariri, a farmer's son from South Lebanon whose \$4-billion fortune puts him among the world's richest 100 men, can bring Lebanon back to life.

Other displaced families squatting in the shell-hastened buildings that loom over the city centre like crumbling teeth voice high expectations of the 48-year-old Hariri.

The homeless, crippled and poor, who watch Lebanon's rich speed in luxury cars across the former green line battleground between office and home, think they can't lose with Hariri.

Officials warn that the tide of hope is bound to be disappointed in the short-term because even Mr. Hariri's riches and skills cannot solve all the problems.

"Lebanese think he's a miracle worker and can rebuild the entire country in one day but he's well aware his efforts alone cannot remedy everything and it is going to take a great deal of effort by everyone to make a real start," a Hariri aide said.

Mr. Hariri says one of his main tasks will be to return the displaced to homes they lost during the war.

Reading out his programme to parliament, he said: "The government will work to mobilise capabilities, inside and outside (Lebanon), in order to secure material help for the displaced and allow them to return, to consolidate the will of coexistence...and to wipe away the war's last scars."

Economists say Mr. Hariri is the best candidate to attract aid and investment vital for Lebanon's revival but stress the process of reconstruction will be long and hard.

Martyrs' Square, long a wasteland of rubble and apartment and office blocks pock-marked with millions of shell and bullet holes. It is also the centre of Mr. Hariri's ambitious plans for reconstruction through private enterprise.

Mr. Hariri's fortune from construction and banking in Saudi Arabia and his links to the Saudi royal family outweigh for most Lebanese his lack of political experience. He has never before held office or played a public political role.

Squatters also disregard the fact that they may have to leave their homes amid the ruins to make way for rebuilding the centre — a higher government priority than low-income housing.

"Are you from the Hariri people?" asks Fadiela Ali, her legs swathed in dirty bandages and using crutches to walk, in her squalid home next to the Abu Baker family.

"God help Premie he can save us," says 50. "I wish he would my leg operation no again."

As Lebanon's rich and wealthiest pin hopes on Hariri for hospitals, the tens of thousands of projects.

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Down the road, Beirut's smallest, creeps deeper and the blue watch Mediterranean.

"You should see the rats here," said er, gesturing with that some are as big. "No one dares to their rooms at night. During a full moon in the early 1980s, construction companies part of the city cranes are moving. Smaller enterprises already capitalise ruins. One man my small van, a few tal and umbrellas, and area around the peppered bronze Me tue into an open a. It looks as if he business for some t

Wealth is weapon against West — Rafsa

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has urged Muslim countries to use their economic wealth as a weapon to break Western supremacy.

Mr. Rafsanjani said that if Muslim states used their natural resources, especially oil, "in a correct way, industrialised countries cannot claim supremacy in the world."

"If Muslims used their rich economic resources as weapons against the violators of Muslims' rights, the situation in Palestine would have been different now and Bosnian Muslims would not

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# JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	..... Les Aventures du Bosco.
18:25	..... Envoyé Spécial
19:00	..... News in French
19:15	..... Fenêtre sur
19:30	..... News in Hebrew
20:00	..... News in Arabic
20:30	.....
..... America's Funniest Home Videos	
21:00	..... Perspectives
21:30	..... Varieties
22:00	..... News in English
22:30	..... Feature film: "Evidence of Power"

## CHURCHES

06:44	..... Fajr
06:50	..... (Sunrise) Duha
11:21	..... Dhuhr
14:14	..... Asr
16:38	..... Maghrib
17:59	..... Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfah, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salette Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751.	
Assman International Church Tel. 685256.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 624752.	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 637891.	

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression centred over the Turkish coast, accompanied by a cold front will affect Jordan as Saturday evening. Therefore, clouds will increase gradually and rain will fall in the northern parts extending gradually to the central parts of the Kingdom. A drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be westerly fresh. In Aqaba it will be partly cloudy, and winds will be southerly fresh and seas high.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	..... 09 / 16
Aqaba	..... 16 / 25
Deserts	..... 09 / 20



# Home News

## Ruseifa man kills and rapes mother

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 28 year old identified by the police only as A. was apprehended by the police in Ruseifa after he had killed his own mother and raped her.

The police report said that the 58 old mother was found dead in her home and that police alerted by neighbours who said that the woman had been on the floor for a long time that the door to her home finally locked.

The report said that police investigations quickly led to the very of the murderer.

The man admitted to killing his mother in the course of stealing jewellery. The report said that the man enacted the crime at the scene for the police investigators and he had stolen electrical appliances from the house in addition to pieces of jewellery before locking the door behind him.

The murderer also admitted during the interrogation that he had murdered his brother's mother in-law in the same manner one and a half years ago and had stolen some of her jewellery.

He told the police that he had strangled both women with his bare hands before raping them and escaping with the stolen items. According to the report, the second crime was committed last Sunday in Ruseifa.



QUEEN RECEIVES SHIELD FROM DIABETES SOCIETY: Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday participated in a charity march organized by the Jordanian Diabetes Society on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 57th birthday. At the end of the march, in which Chief Chamberlain Prince Raed Ben Zeid and also President of the Jordan Diabetes Society Mohammad Al Zahiri delivered an address in which he thanked Queen Noor for accepting the honorary presidency of the society and her continued support for the society. Dr. Zahiri then presented the Queen with the society's shield.

## Crown Prince opens Teachers Club and announces national conference on education

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national conference to evaluate the educational process in the Kingdom will be held in Amman in the coming few weeks, according to an announcement by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The conference, which will be attended by concerned educationalists and ministry officials, is expected to pay tribute to and determine criteria for honouring teachers, said the Crown Prince in an address at the opening of the first Teachers Club in Jordan Thursday.

The conference will be the second after the 1987 National Educational Conference which charted plans for overhauling the Jordanian educational system by providing new textbooks, updating curricula and teachers standards, and building new schools with appropriate facilities. The Teachers Club, situated near the Seventh Circle in Jabal Amman is a three-storey building that cost the Ministry of Education nearly JD 400,000 covering the cost of construction and furniture, according to Abdul Jalil Al Awawdeh, the club director.

He said that the building has a conference hall seating 500 children's units, a dining room, and recreation rooms for various types of games, a library and administration offices will be open for teachers and their families daily except on Mondays.

Mr. Awawdeh said that members have to pay subscriptions to benefit from the swimming pool, car park and children's garden. The 1987 educational conference recommended that such a club be created for the thousands of teachers living in the country, said the Crown Prince in his inauguration address.

The club, he noted, will be a meeting place for social and cultural exchanges among people of the same profession and a ground for bolstering human relations among the members of the Jordanian family, the Crown Prince added.

He said that this club and others that are to be set up should have clear-cut objectives that will contribute to education in the country.

Prince Hassan distributed medals to veteran teachers who had served in the private and public sectors and unveiled a commemorative plaque set up at the entrance of the building. Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, who addressed the ceremony, said by opening this club, the Ministry of Education hopes that its functions will contribute positively towards enhancing the educational process in Jordan.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Friday, Mr. Awawdeh said that teachers would have to pay a JD 20 fee membership in addition to a JD 6 fee in annual subscription.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan inaugurates the Teachers Club in Amman Thursday

## Preparing for the big one

By Laney Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an attempt to prepare for the next earthquake, five seismologists are working in the Middle East to promote regional cooperation in monitoring and preparing for tremors.

Having a good understanding of the cause of earthquakes and their damage is important for economic development, especially in this region, said the leader Bob Hamilton said during his visit to Jordan recently.

A group of geophysicists from the Virginia-based United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is working to assist countries in the region in strengthening, trend, God strength and interval of earthquakes, and to develop better seismicity policies and building codes.

Geophysicists are visiting Jordan, Egypt and Israel to meet with regional seismologists and government officials. So far, the group has proposed a bilateral cooperation agreement between USGS and UN-ESCO and host countries.

Madame Jordan has already profited from close cooperation with the USGS. In 1983, the organization helped the Kingdom establish its first seismic network, considered the best in the region. Working with the USGS, the Natural Resources Association (NRA) in the US is monitoring tremors in the Kingdom according to Kaysi Al Kaysi, part of the NRA Department of Geology. According to Mr. Kaysi, since 1983, two of them have been recorded above the small town of Jericho and five. The area, however, have only been reported with their implied motion.

It is a geological fault, the Arabian Plate, Dr. Hamilton said, that is to hit the region soon.

However, has a history of dating back 4,000 years. The last recorded was the 1927 Jericho earthquake, which killed 300 people. The quakes

## Ministry clamps down on anti-freeze fraudsters

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Specifications and Standards at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Friday announced a new set of regulations related to anti-freeze materials used in motor vehicles.

Engineer Hassan Saudi, the department director, said that the ministry has approved two types of anti-freeze liquid used in the cars.

The department he said has noticed that some merchants were concocting their own types of anti-freeze and claiming that the resulting product conformed to the ministry's specifications. Their products were then sold at low prices in the local market.

Mr. Saudi said such practices can only cause the anti-freeze liquid to be ineffective. Mr. Saudi urged Jordanian citizens to refrain from buying anti-freeze liquids unless the bottles are sealed properly with full information on the tag.

### Al Dastour editor laid to rest

AMMAN (Petra) — Managing Editor of Al Dastour Arabic daily Mahmoud Al Housani was laid to rest Friday in Al Shishan cemetery in Sweilih. Mr. Housani who passed away Thursday morning at the University Hospital in Amman was born in Housan village in the occupied West Bank in 1940. The deceased worked at the Jordan News Agency for more than 20 years until he was retired in 1989. His last post at the agency was Director of the Arab and International News Department. Attending the funeral Friday were Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif, President of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Suleiman Al Qudah, JPA board members, and editors and journalists of the daily and weekly newspapers.



Mahmoud Al Housani

## Cancer centre donations will be subtracted from taxable income

AMMAN (Petra) — Cash donations contributed by citizens to Al Amal Cancer Centre will be subtracted from their taxable income provided that the amount of the contribution does not exceed 25 per cent of the income, according to an informed source at the Income Tax Department. In 1985, the Cabinet has approved exempting citizens' contributions to the centre project from taxes.

## French food festival at Safeway's

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An overwhelming exhibition of French food and products was inaugurated Thursday at the Safeway's stores by Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard.

The exhibition is "part of French endeavours to boost Jordanian-French relations in the economic field," said Michel Dager, the French commercial attaché at the French Embassy.

"This is the third French operation and the biggest of all to promote French products and make them known to the public," Mr. Dager said. "I hope that this campaign will succeed and help in reinforcing commercial links between the two countries," he added.

France is considered the fourth main exporter to Jordan. Choosing Safeway's for the promotion of their products, the French commercial centre in Jordan hope that they will succeed in attracting the Jordanian consumer to French food.

"We always bear of French food and this is the opportunity to taste it," one Jordanian consumer at Safeway's said.

Decorated with French flags and Eiffel towers, the Safeway's stores, also celebrating its first anniversary, added the French touch along with national French songs and dress. The exhibition, includes various kinds of French cheese, alcoholic beverages, as well as industrial products and cars.

## Edition of Al Rabat banned

AMMAN (J.T.) — The latest issue of Al Rabat, a weekly published by the Islamic movement in Jordan, was confiscated by the Jordanian authorities this week.

A statement distributed by the magazine's management to the local press Friday said that the latest issue was banned because it contained an article about repression and torture conducted by the Tunisian authorities against Islamists. The director of press and publications in Jordan who ordered the seizure of the magazine's latest issue had promised the magazine editor Abdullah Al Akaleh that the distribution could begin again on Thursday, but he had gone back on his promise, the statement noted. The statement added that the article had also presented the Islamic movement's rejection of the Tunisian president's call for a meeting among various political factions.

The magazine, the statement continued, contained details about the Royal Amnesty in Jordan and its impact on the domestic front.

The statement, which denounced the department's confiscation of the magazine claimed that the publication of such information would by no means cause any embarrassment to the Jordanian government.

The statement claimed that the confiscation of the latest edition of Al Rabat is not in harmony with the democratic atmosphere in the Kingdom.

## Royal press secretary appointed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Hashemite court Friday announced that Ms. Vera Azar has been appointed press secretary to their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor as of Nov. 17, 1992.

Ms. Azar will head the international press office at the Royal Court in the course of her duty as the Royal Press Secretary, the statement noted. It said that Randa Salti, Saud Khalaf, Rima Hajar, Reem Nuseibeh and Lina Sabbah will be staff members of the international press office. The statement noted that among other things the international press office at the Royal Court will be handling international interview requests for the King and Queen, noting that it will issue a statement about its other services soon.

## Seminar on juvenile delinquents concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day symposium on juvenile delinquency ended in Amman Thursday with the participants issuing a set of recommendations aimed at helping decision-makers introduce better measures for dealing with the delinquents and further consolidating cooperation between home and school to improve child-raising in Jordan.

The recommendations called for special programmes to be prepared to spread awareness among Jordanian families on the needs of children. They also urged parents to deal equally with children of both sexes to bolster cooperation between parents and schools in directing young females towards positive attitudes in line with religious beliefs and high morals.

The recommendations called for the introduction of modern methods for dealing with juvenile delinquents at reformatory schools with the aim of rehabilitating the inmates and providing them with vocational and useful training.

The recommendations called for the amendment of laws on juvenile delinquency, the creation of special courts of law to deal with delinquents and to set up special police units including both men and women to deal with the delinquents of both sexes.

The participants said that the national social defence society ought to be entrusted with the task of setting up specialised committees including judges, lawyers and university professors to help amend Jordanian laws on juvenile delinquency. At the outset of the two-day seminar, Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Fadel Ali said that despite continued efforts on the part of Jordanian organisations concerned in raising children, delinquency was growing in the Kingdom. He said that juvenile delinquency has become a major concern for the Jordanian society.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Fattah, Lisa Fattah and Mohammad Mohraddin at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Brilliant stories — American narrative jewellery exhibit" at the American Centre (open from 5 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Melody Ambiance" by Adnan Al Sharif at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Salman Al Basri at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of contemporary Swedish art at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by renowned Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- ★ Documentary film on endangered species, entitled "Last show on Earth" (parts three and four), at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

## Arab-Americans

continued from page 1)

These Arab territory and Palestinian autonomy so a comprehensive peace can be attained.

"The Arab-Americans echoed

is essential that president Clinton and his administration be directly and actively involved in the peace process," said Salam, president of the Arab Association of Arabians.

Mr. Clinton must continue the "fairness in the Bush administration's approach to the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people on one hand" and security recognition for Israel on the other.

Sham Sharaby of the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine, Washington research group set up a comparable institution, said Mr. Clinton should take advice from the but highly educated and qualified Palestinian

## EC, U.S. reach deal

continued from page 1)

and services, such as bank and telecommunications. London and Brussels are at over efforts to liberalise in services.

avoid a confrontation with a, EC negotiators might devote on any farm agreement early next year — after signing up a wide-ranging,

American community." He called on Mr. Clinton to stop excluding Arab-Americans and deal with them "not as outsiders, but as Americans."

Jean Aboukhalil of the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce stressed the importance of encouraging U.S. Arab trade which he said was now balanced at a total of about \$40 billion a year and could double by the end of the decade.

The United States gets a quarter of its oil needs from the Arab World, he said.

A protect this strategic U.S. interest, John Duke Anthony, a professor who heads the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, said the United States must help set up and arm a regional Arab security organisation in the Gulf.

The United States must commit itself clearly to the defence of the oil-producing Gulf countries "not drawing a line in the sand, but in the air and on the water," he said.

Mr. Clinton has shown himself open to diverse input, Mr. Zogby concluded, "and we'd best get on with it."

accord in the GATT talks.

EC officials suggested that if France were the only nation expressing opposition to an eventual accord, negotiators would be inclined to take the settlement to Geneva for inclusion in the world trade talks.

They said that if four or five nations balked, the community would not present it to other trading nations.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

## MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION THE RAISING OF KAFREIN DAM

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation/Jordan Valley Authority, Amman-Jordan, through the Government Tenders Directorate invites interested experienced contractors from at least member states of the European Community and from Jordan, individually or in joint venture, to apply for prequalification to tender for the construction of Raising of Kafrein Dam on the Wadi Kafrein.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has been approached to contribute to the financing of the construction costs.

The works to be constructed are described below for the general information of interested contractors:

- Raising of the crest of the embankment dam by 7m (some 350,000 m<sup>3</sup> of earth — and random fill works).
- Grout curtains extended into both rock abutments of the dam.
- Modification of the spillway structure including chute and stilling basin (some 14,500 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete works).
- Concrete works for raising of the crest of the intake tower.
- Various metal/mechanical works.

Application forms for prequalification may be obtained from the Government Tender Directorate (GTD) at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Amman, Jordan, as of Saturday, Nov. 21, 1992, against a fee of JD 100.

The application for prequalification documents should be submitted not later than 12 noon of January 6, 1993, to the following address:

Directorate of Government Tenders  
Ministry of Public Works and Housing  
P.O. Box 1220,  
Tel: 21944  
Fax: 696751  
Telephone: 696481/697687  
Amman, Jordan

Chairman, Central Tender Committee  
Government Tenders Directorate  
Eng. Bashir Jaghbeer



## Jordan Times

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## Sadat's visit revisited

FIFTEEN YEARS ago the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made a controversial trip to Israel to woo not only the Likud government of Menachem Begin to make peace in the Middle East but also the Israeli people. The shock waves resulting from that unprecedented trek continue to have their effect on Arabs and Israelis alike.

For the Israelis, the Sadat visit broke some of the psychological barriers that existed between the two peoples and made it possible to eventually accept a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Egyptian territory. Sadat knew all along that only by directly engaging the Israeli people he could affect the extent of Israeli withdrawal from Egyptian territory that was finally brought by the signing of the Camp David accords in 1979. The Arab psyche at the time could not accept the Egyptian president's initiative. It ran counter to key national Arab stands about contacting the enemy anywhere much less on its own grounds.

In retrospect, the Camp David peace agreement that ensued from the Sadat trip to Israel unravelled much of the dormant Israeli complexes against the Arab peoples and countries. It had also set the stage for the current peace process where Arab and Israeli negotiators sit facing one another in a rather more relaxed atmosphere. It is doubtful that the current peace talks could have been initiated without the Egyptian-Israeli peace accord in the background.

For all its shortcomings and pitfalls, notably its role in dividing the Arab World on the issues of war and peace, much of what the Palestinians are negotiating about with Israel now was articulated in the Camp David terms of reference. It is not easy to agree with some observers who contend that the Palestinian side is now forced to yield to some conditions that are patently inferior to what was prescribed in the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. One thing is clear though; had the Camp David accords been allowed to run their course, there would have been less than 15,000 Israeli settlers on Palestinian territory, a big feat in itself. Thirteen years later, there are more than 150,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and more are expected to colonise Arab lands if a peace agreement is not reached soon between Israel and the Palestinians.

With the benefit of hindsight, therefore, what the Arab parties to the peace talks are doing now is similar to what Cairo had done fifteen years ago with one remarkable difference: The Arab parties to the current talks are committed to a comprehensive peace agreement affecting all the remaining Arab fronts. This time around, there is not going to be any unilateral Arab peace accords, something that Egypt was cautioned against before it entered the talks that led to a separate peace treaty with Israel. On the other hand, the Egyptians then entered the talks more boldly by engaging the Israeli people in the process. This is something that has yet to be pursued by the Arab parties to the current peace negotiations.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Friday urged the Vatican to declare its real position with regard to the ongoing process of normalising ties with Israel. Despite the earlier announcements by the Vatican that it is committed to its stand with regard to the Middle East region and despite the good intentions displayed by the Vatican officials in their talks with Arab officials over Israeli-Vatican relations, the Arab Nation awaits a clearcut position and clear and loud voice coming from the Holy See stating the Vatican's position with regard to the Middle East question and the rights of the Arab and the Palestinians, said the daily. For its part, Israel has been focusing attention on the meeting held in Jerusalem for the first time between Vatican and Israeli officials; the Jewish state has been keen on presenting the meeting as a de facto beginning of the process of normalisation of relations between the two sides, leading to full diplomatic representation, the paper pointed out. It said it was true that the deputy foreign minister of the Vatican had stated that the road was very long and difficult before any such relations could be established, but Israel had chosen to present the current contacts as the first step leading eventually to diplomatic ties. Only the Vatican can clarify the whole situation with a clearcut statement about the whole matter and it is up to the Vatican to put matters in their right perspective, said the paper. The paper said that such a clearcut stand from the Vatican is needed especially now as the Israelis continue to show their negative attitude towards the peace process and continue to place obstacles in the path of peace.

AL DUSTOUR commented on the unproductive seventh round of Arab-Israeli negotiations, which has just ended in Washington, noting that the result has long been expected in the light of Israel's continued intransigence. It was clear even before the round of talks had started that Israel was playing for time and awaiting the results of the U.S. presidential elections, said the daily. Perhaps the Arab negotiators were convinced that the Israelis are not serious about peace, as it was these negotiators who have been dealing closely with them, and it was the Arab negotiators who realised that the Israeli side had not changed its position at the negotiating table under the Labour government, said the daily. Observers may have noticed that Yitzhak Rabin, like his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, has offered the world community mere lip-service, claiming that Israel was for peace; in reality he has escalated the repression against the Palestinians and is continuing to prevaricate and to show increasing obstinacy at the negotiating table, the paper added. Indeed, the paper said, the last session proved to the Arabs and to the world at large that the Rabin government was never serious about the negotiations and has no plans whatsoever with regard to the establishment of peace with Israel's Arab neighbours.

## After the cold war: Arab bargaining position strengthened

By Radwan R. Abdullah

ONE YEAR has passed since the start of direct Arab-Israeli negotiations aimed at the establishment of permanent peace in our region. But debate still rages on, especially within the Jordanian-Palestinian community, regarding the principle, the terms, and the conduct of these negotiations.

Opponents of the peace process fall into two main groups. The first group argues that the lack of a credible Arab military power will certainly result in a bad deal since the U.S. cannot be relied upon to exert a degree of pressure necessary to make Israel withdraw from the occupied territories. They conclude accordingly that peace should be postponed until such a time when the balance of power is less favourable to the Israeli side. The second group calls for armed struggle or jihad.

These political positions require a substantial degree of military preparedness, which would succeed in redressing the existing imbalance in the distribution of power as a precondition for the success of their proposed policies. They also fail to make a convincing case for the attainability of the required military means or the political or military utility of renewed conflict.

Such thinking totally neglects political parameters laid down by the international and regional political systems, their interrelationship, the stratification of power upon which they are based and our position in relation to both. It further grossly misunderstands the nature of the power struggle between ourselves and our enemy. In what follows such arguments and others will be closely examined.

1) The most radical position is taken by those who argue that Israel will never voluntarily relinquish a single inch of occupied territory. Israel will withdraw only when it is coerced into doing so. They therefore call for the abandonment of the present quest for a peaceful solution and the immediate embarkment on a major military effort that will soon enable us to liberate our occupied lands by force.

Even if we assume that the Arab confrontation states somehow succeed in building up their military capabilities to a predetermined level, that accomplishment will not enable us to liberate the territories. The most we can hope for is a situation of mutual deterrence which precludes the use of military force in direct conflict in an attempt to force our enemy into submission or for a political manner, i.e. as a credible threat that would compel our enemy to withdraw. The Arabs lost much of their ability to compel long ago when Israel succeeded in allying itself with the West. That ability was further eroded when Israel acquired weapons of mass destruction.

In short, military power has political utility only when it can be used to compel and none when its use is confined to mutual deterrence. The power relationship between ourselves and the Israelis is at best a relationship of mutual deterrence.

2) Perhaps the largest opposition group argues that conditions are simply not ripe for peace at the present time. A segment of this group believes that the ongoing deterioration in our deterrent power not only denies us the means to exert pressure but, more significantly, it leaves us exposed to compelling attempts by our enemy. We should therefore reestablish mutual deterrence before we embark on peaceful negotiations.

Others argue that since the present conditions are not conducive to an honourable peace, we should put the problem on hold until such a time when the conditions are more favourable but with no clear notion as to how this improvement is to be brought about.

The end of bipolarity in world politics effectively removed any direct challenge to America's position in the Middle East simply because no power capable and willing to pose such a challenge exists. Under such circumstances, any collective Arab attempt to build a credible military force is bound to lead to disaster since in a new arms race American help to Israel will be virtually assured while no countervailing global power is available to back up, finance, and sustain a comparable Arab military build-up. Such a policy will therefore be self-defeating since it will inevitably lead to further deterioration in the military balance.

A strictly military analysis of the balance of power is too narrow and restricting. Political power means much more than military hardware. Israel's military advantage has little relevance to the political bargaining taking place. Our bargaining strength rests primarily on our ability to deny Israel full access to the regional system. Such access cannot be compelled by the use of force. Any misguided Israeli attempt to make us submit to their will, rather than willingly accept their participation, entails the uncontrolled use of military force and the occupation of vast heavily populated areas. The present international and regional configurations of power and interests as well as the basic facts of geography and demography preclude such an option and assure its utter failure if it is undertaken. Israeli leaders will long remember their bitter experience in Lebanon and the total failure of the massive use of military force in coercing a much weaker state into accepting them.

Those who advocate an indefinite postponement naturally assume that time will work to our advantage by allowing the natural development of our superior human and natural resources, forgetting to mention that the passing of time only serves to legitimise the status quo and offers Israel the pretext and the

opportunity to go on annexing, confiscating, building settlements and the like until the whole of the occupied lands are totally digested.

Time, as such, is largely neutral. Whether it will work to our advantage or otherwise will entirely depend on how we utilise it. We must recognise that real power ultimately rests on economic strength. We will defeat our purpose if we embark on a new economically wasteful and politically futile military build-up, which will effectively preclude sustainable economic, political and social development of our societies as indeed it has done in the past. The former Soviet Union possessed the greatest military machine ever assembled, but that did not prevent its surrender and collapse simply because such military might did not rest on a sound economic base.

3) Those who assert that the Arabs' bargaining position is very weak do so because they mistakenly assume that Israel "holds all the cards." They occupy the land and we lack the means to compel them to withdraw. This is a classic but not unusual case of total miscomprehension of the essence of bargaining explained by what is known in bargaining literature as the blackmailer's fallacy. If a blackmailer threatens his victim with a damage worth a certain amount, he argues that his victim will be better off if he pays him any sum short of that amount. But the victim can make an equally strong argument that the blackmailer would be better off by accepting any payment greater than zero. Each of the two has bargaining power over the other. If the preferred outcome of the blackmailer depends on the acquiescence of the victim, the latter has power over the former as a result of his ability to deny him his preferred outcome. Israel's clear interest in gaining full access to the regional system cannot be accomplished without our consent. This is where our bargaining strength lies.

Such an assertion rests on the assumption that the strategic relationship between the U.S. and Israel has ended. But the opposition of peace deny that the end of the bipolar world structure signalled the end of this special relationship. They argue that the strategic relationship will be redefined after some adjustment to give it a more regional flavour. The change in the world structure, it is further argued, is actually beneficial to Israel since it offers it the opportunity to bridge the gap between America's global posture and Israel's regional orientation.

Such arguments rest on a flawed comprehension of the nature of the old American-Israeli alliance and of the significance of the sea changes taking place. Israel's strategic value to the U.S. rested on either a direct or an indirect Soviet military threat on the regional rather than the global level. Although the Soviet threat to the U.S. was global in nature, Israel's role was limited to the regional manifestations of

that threat, whether emanating directly or by proxy. The ability of the regional powers to pose a challenge to America's interests in the region rested on the existence of a superpower willing and able to provide them with the needed material and political support and offer them a degree of protection under which they were able to operate. The significance of the end of bipolarity is not only related to the disappearance of the Soviet threat, but also to the consequent disappearance of regional challenges. Furthermore, as security considerations recede, economic considerations become paramount.

America's economic interests in the Arab World by far exceed those in Israel in an era when global competition is increasingly acquiring an economic flavour. Thus, if Israel persists in its present stance, it will risk endangering the very foundations of its own security. A major reorientation of Israeli policy is therefore called for. Its role as a strictly coercive power totally relying on military force has to end. Such a reorientation is needed by the U.S. to maintain the value of Israel as an effective policy instrument in a vital region. It is necessary for Israel in order to maintain America's interest and support and to reduce its dependence on American generosity and the vulnerability such dependence entails.

This American-Israeli common interest cannot be realised without our approval. Our newly acquired ability to deny them something on which they place a great value gives us substantial political leverage. We are not as powerless as one might conclude from a superficial reading of the political situation.

To summarise, while under bipolarity the permanent conflict situation created the conditions for an Israeli strategic role, the post-bipolar era demands an end to the conflict to create the conditions for an Israeli political role. The conflict therefore is no longer a zero-sum game; both sides would be better off by ending it. These basic changes in the configuration of interests create the ideal conditions for a settlement. The same changes led to an improvement rather than deterioration in our bargaining position since the fulfilment of Israel's coveted future political role cannot be realised without our acceptance.

Making full use of this bargaining strength is an entirely different matter. Full utilisation of this externally-derived type of political power requires total comprehension and awareness of the possibilities offered by the political environment. An evaluation of the peace process to date does not indicate that the Arab side possesses the degree of mental clarity and bargaining skill for these possibilities to become actualised.

The writer, head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Jordan, contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

## Defense official expects continuity U.S. Mideast policy

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — U.S. defense policy regarding the Middle East will not significantly change under a Clinton administration, a Pentagon official said on Nov. 17. The official, speaking on background, reviewed U.S. post-Gulf war defense policy in the Middle East during a Nov. 17 briefing at the Foreign Press Centre.

"I don't see much real change in our overall strategy in the region," the official said. "It does not appear that there is much variance between (president-elect) Clinton's objectives and what we've been pursuing in the region."

The official stressed that U.S. defense policy on the Middle East is based on "enduring national interests" no matter who resides in the White House. "It's an American strategy," he said, focused on the Middle East peace process and deterring further aggression in the Gulf.

On the peace process, the Pentagon has focused its attention on the multilateral talks, specifically on the arms control and regional security committee.

This committee is exploring confidence- and security-building measures which would include the installation of hot-line communications between Israel and its Arab neighbours and advance notification of military exercises, the official reported. The United States hopes any agreement on these measures will "enhance the bilateral negotiations," he said.

U.S. policy in the Gulf is based on deterring further aggression, safeguarding the free flow of oil, controlling the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and enhancing regional security cooperation, the official noted.

U.S. deterrence strategy is focused on Iran and Iraq, the official said. Referring to Pentagon assessments, the official said "the immediate threat in the region is from Iraq."

"Iraq retains a dangerous degree of technology in the area of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

"We believe Iraq continues to hide from U.N. inspectors as much as 100 missiles, 16 launcher systems, a significant quantity of chemical weapons precursors and its entire biological weapons programme," the official said.

In addition, while Iraq's military strength has been cut in half since the Gulf war, it still constitutes "the largest military force in the region" with close to 500,000 men in uniform, the official said.

There is a "robust allied deterrent presence in the Gulf and Turkey," the official said, including the Maritime Interception Force, which ensures that shipments from countries bordering Iraq do not violate U.N. Security Council resolutions, and Operations Provide Comfort and Southern Watch, aimed at preventing Iraqi suppression of its population in the north and south.

Noting that the agreement with Turkey on Operation Provide

Comfort is due to expire December, the official said that the Turkish government agreed to renew the mandate. "The U.N. views Operation Provide as 'absolutely essential' efforts to ensure Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions," he stressed.

The official said U.S. Iran is focused on deterring Iranian military adventurism in the region. "Iran, the only 'remains very active' sponsor of terrorist groups subverting a number of states in the region."

The United States is allied cooperation in Iranian access to weapons destruction and the so-called weapons technology, he said. The United States "that over time our vigilance encourage a more moribund policy," he added.

However, while U.S. States has talked to Iraq military suppliers denying this access, "it is not always successful," he noted. He noted Russian sale of a sub to Iran, with the possible sale of two additional subs.

The United States is "concerted effort" to Russia not to sell the official said. "The States views the sale as 'serious development'."

The United States is the development of a anti-submarine capability of the Gulf states, placed a U.S. submarine in the Gulf, he reported.

U.S. defense policy seeks to "enhance cooperation within the region," he said.

The United States is with Gulf states in a and improving their through selected arms combined military training, he said.

The United States favours a stronger Cooperation Council individually and aimed at fostering the region, the official said.

Looking to the future, the official said the U.S. may not be able to send troops to the region during the Gulf war years. "Our allies have to contribute," he said. He expressed U.S. for the inclusion of Syria in discussions states on regional efforts.

The United States ages Gulf states to imp access to military facilities in the region of another crisis, he said. He said the U.S. need to develop the ability to get to the region more stressed. The U.S. "has been fairly successful in securing agreements" proved access and prep in the region, the official said.

United States in Agency.

## Yeltsin paves way for authoritarian rule

By Ralph Boulton  
Reuters

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin has prepared the way for authoritarian rule if Russia's rebellious parliament blocks his radical economic reforms next month.

With business interests at home and financiers in the West looking for proof of a clear victory over conservative rivals, Mr. Yeltsin has made clear he is not prepared to simply weather the storm at December's Congress of People's Deputies and wait for another challenge in the spring.

Building on his authority as Russia's first democratically elected leader, Mr. Yeltsin has won support from powerful regional leaders for a showdown with the supreme legislature.

Industrial directors, a formidable enemy, also gave conditional backing last weekend. But, leaving nothing to chance in a legislature given to capricious swings in mood, Mr. Yeltsin is demonstrating to deputies what he could do if they try to displace his government and curb his personal power to name a government.

The 61-year-old president has hinted both at home and during a visit to London he is ready for emergency measures to protect the market reforms of Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar.

He has said he would not breach the constitution by calling off the congress and suspending the legislature, adding:

"It is another matter that parliament violates the constitution...dare to stop the reforms. Then the president will have to defend

the will of the people. Primarily, I pledged an oath to the people." In June 1991 Mr. Yeltsin swore loyalty to the constitution of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic — a country which in name no longer exists, having been succeeded by the Russian Federation — and to "the human and civic rights and liberties of its citizens."

Mr. Yeltsin's influential opponent in congress, parliamentary chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, said this week anyone who tried to usurp legislative power would be deemed a "state criminal." Mr. Yeltsin used the same term in condemning hardliners who briefly toppled then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last year.

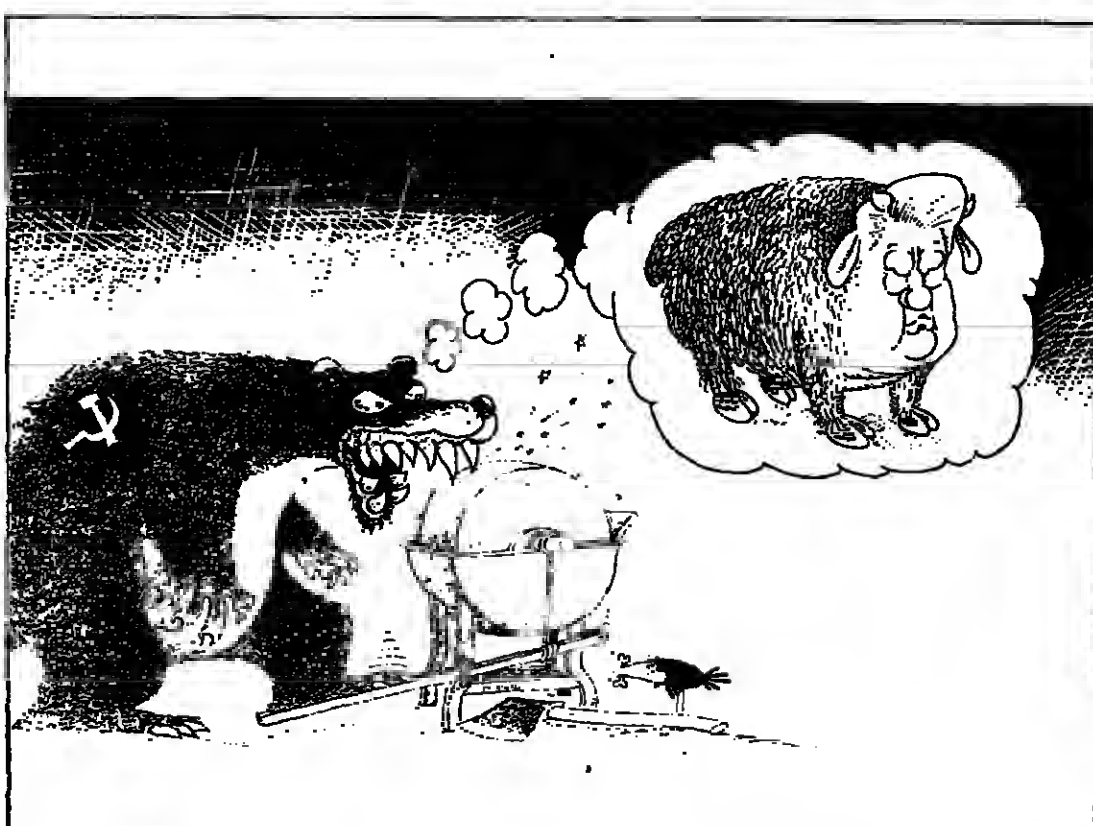
The 1990 election campaign may have been weighted in favour of communists. Nonetheless deputies can claim a popular mandate.

The Russian media seem convinced a showdown is at hand at the congress which begins on Dec. 1 and, if Mr. Yeltsin has his way, will last just four days rather than two weeks.

"The president has made it known that any attempt to destroy reforms could mark the fast frontier beyond which the search for agreement will be impossible," Commonwealth Television said.

Most newspapers believe the president's chances of bringing the congress to heel without any dramatic action are good.

Mr. Yeltsin's opponents are no more united than his allies. His ability to cajole vacillating elements — that is, the majority — among the 1,068 deputies could therefore prove decisive.



Mr. Yeltsin showed brusque self-confidence this month in naming Sergei Shakhrai, who had left office to help defuse opposition before the last congress, to the powerful Security Council.

The move strengthens Mr. Yeltsin's control over a body embracing top ministers and security advisers that could form one of two pillars of an emergency administration. The second,

ensuring co-operation in distant Russian provinces, is a recently formed council uniting heads of Russia's constituent republics.

Mr. Yeltsin says he might replace a few ministers, but not as any concession to the congress he sees as a relic of communism.

The last week has seen signs of an uneasy truce with centre-right opponents in the influential civic union which is backed by leading

industrial directors. The union demands policy changes tantamount to a surrender by Mr. Gaidar. It brands his economic "shock therapy" disastrous, calls for extra credits to shore up industry and a return to state regulation of supply during transition to a market system.

Tight monetary policy, the union says, would close thousands of plants. Few could doubt the

dangers of mass unemployment in the industrial centres of Urals, Moscow and Siberia.

Mr. Gaidar insists, that the dangers of job loss resulting from his would be greater by far also imperial aid from banking organisations.

The president knows end conflict between and legislature, a balance in western democratic expensive luxury in a Russia by grave economic.

The standing parliament drawn from congress, control over the central bank, undermine Mr. Gaidar's policy.

Last week it passed a law Mr. Yeltsin to seek it for all key ministerial posts. But seven key posts violate the existing constitution and seem unlikely to gain any two thirds backing into force.

Compromise from a parliament would serve Yeltsin better than any authoritarianism down.

Suspension of parliament, "explicitly forbidden" constitution, would be that might benefit nationalist forces such as the National Salvation Front. Mr. Yeltsin banned the Front.

However, failure to conflict could undermine Yeltsin's government and authority in the provinces. It is, that could raise the danger of separatism and for Mr. Yeltsin the danger of the paralysis of the government, Mr. Gorbachev's



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# Mafia informer starts singing, putting politicians on alert

By Victor L. Simpson  
The Associated Press

Comfort is due to a mafia turncoat returned home last December, the other eight years in the United States. He was immediately dropped in the Turkish jails and enough tidbits to put the mafia on alert.

The official said that the mafia is focused on the Italian military and police. The mafia is "remains very much a sponsor of terrorism," he said. The mafia is "advertising a number of states in the world," he said. The mafia is "advertising a number of states in the world," he said.

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tion, which questioned him in a secret location in Rome about suspected ties between Cosa Nostra and politicians.

The tape of the interrogation was played for the media Tuesday, and Mr. Buscetta's Sicilian-accented voice also was heard on national TV while a photo of a microphone filled the screen.

Mr. Buscetta declined to give names, but said he would tell investigating judges if asked and pressed his version that the mob has penetrated deeply into the Italian power structure.

Asked whether there were politicians who were also "men of honour," meaning members of the mafia, he said yes.

But he insisted that "politicians have never given orders to mafiosi. It is the mafiosi who know how to reach all levels."

Mr. Buscetta's testimony could deliver a further blow to the establishment at a time when Italy's long-entrenched ruling class seems especially vulnerable.

Officials said a major anti-mafia operation last week was helped by the testimony of informers, a key point in the state's strategy in fighting organized crime.

In the nationwide sweep, authorities issued 206 arrest warrants and picked up 75 people. The others were either already in jail on other charges or at large.

Two parliamentary deputies were reportedly under investigation as part of the probe.

The anti-mafia commission is pursuing other informers' testimony that led to recent arrest warrants in Sicily for the March murder of Salvo Lima, a leading Christian Democrat and close ally of former premier Giulio Andreotti.

Addressing the anti-mafia commission, Mr. Buscetta touched on some of the darkest days of recent Italian history, suggesting that the mob worked in tandem with authoritarian interests in carrying out a strategy of tension in the 1970s.

In another tantalising suggestion, he suggested that others besides the mafia were interested in doing away with Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, who was Italy's top anti-mafia fighter when he was assassinated in 1982.

Mr. Buscetta did not elaborate. Antonino Caponnetto, a former anti-mafia prosecutor, questioned Mr. Buscetta's reliability on recent developments because he cut his ties with the mob so long ago.

But Mr. Caponnetto wrote in La Stampa newspaper last week that he wasn't trying to minimise statements by "such an authoritative protagonist of the affairs of Cosa Nostra."

Mr. Buscetta said he believed that after the assassinations of anti-mafia prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino earlier this year, the country had finally decided to do battle with the mob.

He told the commission that Italy is close to winning the war and urged authorities to intensify the battle, although warning how dangerous the mob can be.

Asked by the commission whom the Cosa Nostra feared, Mr. Buscetta replied: "Certainly not you."

Mr. Buscetta's testimony could deliver a further blow to the establishment at a time when Italy's long-entrenched ruling class seems especially vulnerable.

## Kenya to reform depressed coffee and tea sectors

ROBI (R) — President Moi is focused on the coffee and tea sectors, which are the mainstay of the country's economy.

The United Nations said, pledging to shake-up the coffee and tea sectors, which are the mainstay of the country's economy.

corruption and the slow pace of reform. Donors are reviewing Kenya's performance again this month.

From a record 130,000 tonnes in 1988/89, coffee production plunged to 95,000 tonnes in 1989/90 and just 85,000 tonnes in 1990/91.

Trading in foreign currency will enable the farmer (not reap maximum benefits in currency differences and also boost brokers' confidence.

Addressing major farmers' complaints for the first time in nearly five years, President Moi pledged prompt payment for produce and said roads leading to crop-growing areas would be improved and tea factories expanded "to facilitate efficient services."

He also offered government shares in the state-run Kenya Tea Development Authority "so farmers can have a direct say in the marketing and management of their crop."

In July, nearly 80,000 tea farmers in central Kenya boycotted tea-picking for eight weeks because of delays in payment.

## Yet another fruitless round

(Continued from page 1)

logue" have marked this round. "We had hoped for a beginning of fruitful discussions," he said.

Some of this did take place in the negotiations this week, yet we have still not rid ourselves of futile declarations," he added.

Mr. Gal said that an hour before the opening meeting of the seventh round of talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, the Palestinian press centre issued a "readout" of the session outlining the "role" each party had played.

Mr. Gal said the statements made by Palestinians for "internal consumption" (in the occupied territories) are another source of concern to the Israeli delegation.

that is where the focus should be. Mr. Gal deflected a question on whether Israel would look favourably on an appointment of a special envoy by President-elect Bill Clinton.

In a long and rambling response to a question regarding Palestinian complaints about what Israel has offered them, Mr. Gal again stressed the two-stage concept of the Madrid formula and said that only interim arrangements are under discussion at this point on the Palestinian track.

Furthermore, he said, in these discussions Israel is offering the Palestinians "a lot of executive authority over all walks of life of the average Palestinians in the territories. We have offered them some authority by legislation. We have offered to establish a court system, a totally independent court system, and many other aspects."

Mr. Gal said Israeli delegation is in Washington to negotiate interim self-government arrangements in accordance with the Madrid formula. That formula calls for a two-stage process on the Palestinian track, with final status negotiations to begin at the start of the third year, which Israel "has obligated itself" to do.

Mr. Gal said Israeli officials have informed the co-sponsors of the talks that they are willing to hold another round from Dec. 7 to Dec. 17. While Syria has confirmed that it would attend, no word has been received from other Arab delegations, he said.

Mr. Gal said that the results of the U.S. presidential elections should not have any impact on the negotiations. "And if others are having second or third thoughts and if others are hoping that something will indeed occur that will put them in a better position to negotiate, I think that they are wasting their time," he added.

Israel has not heard from U.S. officials regarding a possible mission to the region by Mr. Baker, said Mr. Gal, adding that the Jewish state feels bilateral negotiations are continuing and that

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This financing is available at a minimum interest rate of approximately 7 percent, Jordan Dinars downpayment of 10 percent, and the balance payable in Jordan Dinars over periods as follows:  
1- Up to two (2) years for raw materials.  
2- Up to three (3) years for intermediate goods.  
3- Up to five (5) years for capital goods.  
To apply, importers should make applications to their local banks and request CIP financing.  
For additional information, importers or banks may call USAID/Jordan at Tel No. 820101 and request to talk with CIP office Personnel (ext. 2627/2254)

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## Leeds set to halt Arsenal's title charge

LONDON (AP) — Though nearer the bottom than the top of the Premier League standings, defending title Leeds United plans to halt Arsenal's championship charge Saturday by beating the Gunners at Elland Road.

Arsenal has won six games in a row and went two weeks ago only for Norwich to then leapfrog the north London team by winning its game in hand.

Norwich, which hosts struggling Sheffield United Saturday, now has 30 points from 15 games with Arsenal a point behind.

Leeds has slipped to 14th in the 22-team standings after a nose-dive in form and has only 18 points from its 15 outings.

But it is unbeaten in 29 league games at Elland Road and has the manpower to slow down Arsenal's bid to win the title for the third time in five years.

If last season's results are a guide, Saturday's result should be a tie. Arsenal forced a 2-2 tie at Elland Road and was held 1-1 at Highbury.

That time Leeds won the title while Arsenal wound up fourth after finishing the season with 17 games undefeated.

England players Ian Wright, Alan Smith and Paul Merson have formed a more impressive strikeforce for Arsenal this term with Tony Adams returning to form at the centre of defence.

By contrast, Leeds have had a roller-coaster season, dropping out of the European Champions Cup after home and away defeats by Glasgow Rangers.

After a Chris Fairclough goal in the last minute preserved its unbeaten home league record in a 2-2 tie with Coventry, Leeds slumped to a 4-0 defeat at Manchester City in its last Premier League game.

In Scottish midfielder Gary McAllister and French striker Eric Cantona, however, Leeds have the players to undo Arsenal's well-organised defence. A lot depends on how Leeds' recent slump has blunted their skills.

Norwich striker Mark Robins netted three goals in a 3-2 victory at Oldham to take his team to the top of the standings 10 days ago.

Saturday's opponent Sheffield United has only six teams below it in the standings yet is in good company.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### J.T. beat Al Ra'i in soccer friendly

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Jordan Times staff beat Al Ra'i team 12-11 in a friendly soccer match Thursday. The first half ended 6-2 for the J.T. Ibrahim Salibi, Mohammad Al Subeidi, Walid Samrin, Nidal Al Amouri, Shihab Makaleh and Samir Barhoum scored for the J.T., while Abdul Hafez Al Hroust and Amer Awaisheh scored for Al Ra'i who caught up in the second half but eventually lost by one goal.

#### Krabbe to be co-driver in Dubai Rally

BONN (R) — Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, who faces a four-year doping suspension Saturday, plans to compete in the Dubai Rally December 2. Krabbe will be co-driver for her friend Silke Fritzinger. "I miss sports," she said in a television interview. "I want to run again but I was looking for a few diversions. It was Silke's idea and I was really excited right from the start. It must be just about everybody's dream to do something like this."

#### Atletico banks on Schuster's return

MADRID (AP) — Following Spain's dismal 0-0 draw this week against Ireland, soccer fans are likely to be eager to return their attention to first division play which this Sunday sees leader Deportivo de La Coruna facing its third-major battle of the season against No. 4 Atletico de Madrid. Deportivo, which has led the table since the season's start and has already defeated league giants No. 2 Real Madrid and No. 3 Barcelona at home, takes on Atletico with an injury free side. Atletico, lagging just two points behind Deportivo's 16, is hopeful the team's mastermind, German coach Bernd Schuster will be able to play after a three-week injury spell. Meanwhile, Real Madrid lying one point behind Deportivo, travels south Saturday to face a Cadiz struggling at No. 18 in the 20-team division.

#### Monaco beat U.S. national team

MONACO (AP) — The U.S. national soccer team, in its final game of the year, lost to Monaco of the French First Division, 1-0. Christian Perez scored the only goal for the home team in the 15th minute. The match was held on the national holiday in the principality and was held in the afternoon before a crowd that included Prince Rainier II. Monaco is now in fourth place in the French League. The U.S. team now heads back to the United States to begin preparation for the 1994 World Cup. As host country it is in the final round automatically.

#### Top trio call for slower surfaces

FRANKFURT (R) — Three top tennis players have called for slower surfaces to reduce the advantage to big servers and keep crowds interested. "It's just boring when you can't hit the ball back, it's not tennis," said an angry Jim Courier at this week's ATP World Championship. The world's number one, who struggled to beat Richard Krajicek before falling in straight sets to Goran Ivanisevic, said something should be done to upset the big hitters. Dutchman Krajicek, making his first appearance in the year-end event featuring the world's top eight players, acknowledged his game was not always exciting to watch. "Diminutive Michael Chang added: 'I think that it is fair for the players and for the public to find a surface that is suitable for all the players and good tennis watching.' But Croatian Ivanisevic, who has produced over 900 aces this season, said he was tired of being criticised. "I think in 10 years tennis is going to be much faster because of those new, wide body rackets," he added. "You can hit the ball much harder with those."

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMARA HIRSCH  
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#### TRUTH OR FICTION—YOUR PROBLEM

North-South vulnerable. North

Deals:

NORTH

♠ J 10 8 4

♥ A Q J 10

♦ A K J 9

♣ 2

EAST

♠ 8

♥ 8 9 8 2

♦ Q 10 8 4

♣ 7 5 3

SOUTH

♠ K Q 9 7 5 2

♥ 7 6 4

♦ 7 5 3

♣ 4 3

The bidding:

North 1♣ — South 2♣ — West 3♣ — East 4♣ — Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣

A defensive ruff need not exist to force declarer into a losing line. The

illusion that it might exist is often

enough. To illustrate what we mean,

follow East's defense on this hand.

South did not have the values to

get free over East's overall. How-

West led a low club against four

spades, and East did not think much

of the defensive prospects. West was

unlikely to bring more than one

trick to the cruise, so a trick would

have to be conjured up out of thin

air if four spades was to be defeated.

East won the first trick with the

queen of clubs and found the de-

claring shift to the ace of hearts, won

in dummy with the ten. So what,

you say? Consider the matter from

declarer's perspective.

It seemed East had shifted to a

singleton heart in an effort to get a

ruff. To prevent that, declarer led a

trump. West grabbed the ace and

returned a heart. Declarer was quite

prepared to lose a heart ruff and

convinced by the earlier play that

the king of hearts was with West

and that East was short, finessed

the jack.

South had an idea what was in

store when East won with the king

and returned a heart. Sure enough,

## Qomok wins National Rally

By Aileen Bannayan  
and Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

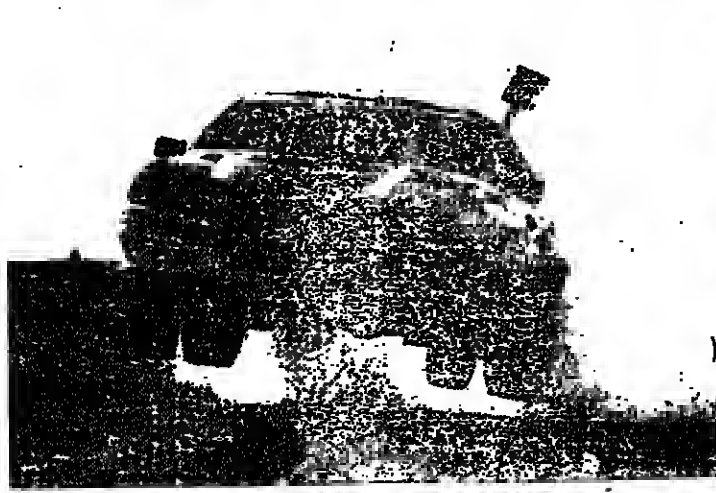
AMMAN — After a night of tough rivalry in which competitors drove through eight special stages and a total distance of 273.63 kilometres, Mahmoud Qomok and co-driver Ra'ed Wakileh, driving a Nissan 240RS, won the Pepsi National Rally Friday organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

The season's top-ranked Marwan Abu Hamad and co-driver Khaled Zakaria in a Toyota Celica GT came in second, followed by Naser Bustami and Hani Naser in a Ford Fiesta XR2i in third place.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein gave the start signal for the 26 participants in the rally as they set off from the Amman International Motor Show at 7 p.m. Thursday night towards the Jerash area.

At the first special stage at Masarra, Qomok was in sixth position with an average speed of 59.90 kilometres. He fell back to eighth position at the second special stage at Ras Al Aqra. Leading positions in the first and second stages went to Bashar Bustami in a Ford Fiesta XR2i and Walid Sha'ban in a Nissan 240RS, respectively.

Qomok took the lead in the third special stage at Soof with a time of 6 minutes 45 seconds. He was followed by Abu Hamad in second place who then took the lead in the fourth special stage at Kufir Khal, while Qomok fell back to third position. Naser Bustami was still in top positions as he was third at Soof and second at Kufir Khal, the fourth special stage.



Qomok makes a high jump during a special stage in the Jordan International Rally earlier this year.



Marwan Abu Hamad

Drivers were urged to take it easy passing through Sakhra village after Soof as villagers were celebrating two weddings.

At the end of the four special stages forming the first leg of the rally, participants had a service and regrouping pause at the Jerash Resthouse where the first car was due to arrive by 10:15 p.m. The first five positions at the Jerash regrouping were: Abu Hamad, Naser Bustami, Qomok, Ammar Hijazi, and Sha'ban.

Beginning the second leg of the rally, the fifth special stage at Ras Al Aqra, Abu Hamad, who tops the 1992 Jordan Drivers Open Championship, took the lead with a time of 6 minutes 49 seconds. He was followed by Naser Bustami and Belbeisi, Fleifel, thus completing the top 10 positions.

Following the announcement of the overall results, RACJ Auto Sports Committee spokesman Mithkal Asfour said rally officials were satisfied with the number of drivers who finished the night

top three positions. Bilbeisi was sixth, Mohammad Al Daoud was seventh, followed by Hijazi, Halabi, Bishara Qu'zor, Sha'han, Fleifel, Hasan Abu Samra and Jallad from 8th to 14th positions.

In the final special stage at Masarra, Qomok still held the lead with an average speed of 55.5 kilometres per hour and a time of 3 minutes 44 seconds. Naser Bustami was second with a time of 3 minutes 56 seconds followed by Qarim with a time of 3:59 and Daoud was fourth with 4:02 minutes.

In the final overall positions Qarim was fourth followed by Bilbeisi, Hijazi, Bashar Bustami, Fleifel, Mohammad Shishani and Jallad, thus completing the top 10 positions.

Following the announcement of the overall results, RACJ Auto Sports Committee spokesman Mithkal Asfour said rally officials were satisfied with the number of drivers who finished the night

rally which is the last speed event of the 1992 season.

"Everything went smoothly. There were some difficult stages but the drivers were careful and 21 participants finished the rally," Asfour told the Jordan Times.

There were five non-starters in the rally, three because of mechanical failure and two who didn't show up. There were also five accidents throughout the rally, but fortunately there were no serious injuries or damage to the cars.

Fifty marshals on the course of the rally, headed by chief marshal Bashar Asfour, made sure everything went according to plan. They were assisted by the Civil Defence, the Highway Patrol and 15 other assistants who worked at RACJ headquarters in Amman with rally official Hasan Ala'edini until the rally results were finally calculated by 5 a.m. Friday morning.

## Navratilova, Seles advance to semifinals

NEW YORK (AP) — It wasn't easy, but Monica Seles and Martina Navratilova eventually did what was expected — both advanced to the semifinals of the Virginia Slims Championships.

The top-seeded Seles fought out of a deep hole to overcome Jana Novotna 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 after Navratilova, seeded fourth, defeated pesky Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1, 2-6, 6-2.

"I'm lucky I escaped today," Seles said.

Their opponents in the semifinals won't be known until after Friday night's quarterfinals. Seles, seeking her third consecutive Slims Championships crown, will meet the winner of a quarterfinal pitting third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini against No. 7 Jennifer Capriati, while Navratilova will take on the No. 8 Conchita Martinez-Lori McNeil winner.

The unique best-of-5-sets final will be played Sunday afternoon, with the winner of this \$3 million, 16-player event pocketing \$250,000 and \$120,000 going to the runner-up.

Already gone from this 16-player field to second-seeded Steffi Graf, ousted in the opening round by McNeil. At first, it

appeared as if Seles would join her on the sidelines.

Meanwhile, the winnngest doubles team in tennis history, Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver, lost in the semifinals of the Virginia Slims Championships, but said they may play together again.

"We're not going to play full-time as a team any more," Shriver said after she and Navratilova lost to the top-seeded team of Helena Sukova and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-4, 7-5.

Courier seeks to

end year as No. 1

Finally, in his third match of the ATP tour World Championship, in Frankfurt, Jim Courier may get a chance to breathe a little before he has to return a serve.

Courier, who is seeking to become the first American to finish the year as No. 1 since John McEnroe in 1984, has had to face hard-serving Goran Ivanisevic and Richard Krajicek in the first two rounds of the round-robin tournament.

He faces Michael Chang, and Courier needs a win to advance to the semifinals of this year-end event featuring the top eight players in the world.



Martina Navratilova

Three of the final four places

are up for grabs.

Courier was frustrated Thursday by Ivanisevic, the big-hitting Croatian. Ivanisevic (2-0), playing what he said the best tennis of his career, beat Courier (1-1) 6-3, 6-2.

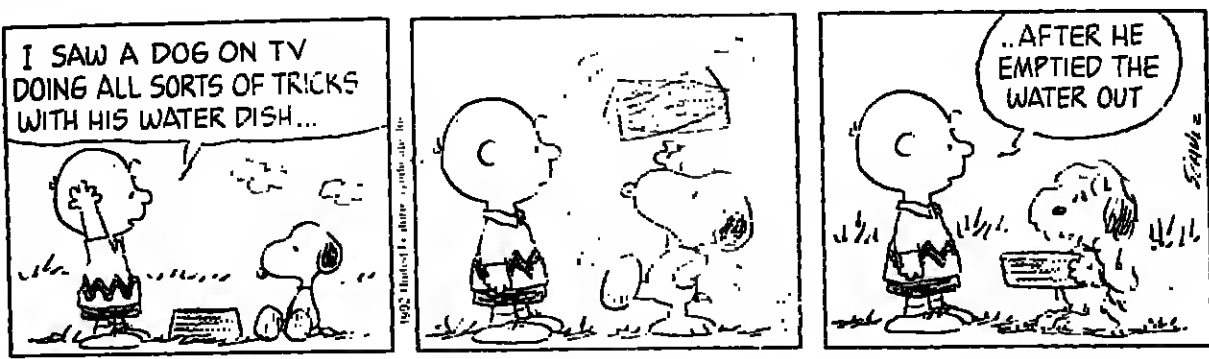
Ivanisevic has the biggest serve in the game, but he also outplayed Courier from the backcourt, which is considered Courier's strength.

Courier survived a tough three-set match against another awesome server, Richard Krajicek, in his opening match. But he was overwhelmed by Ivanisevic.

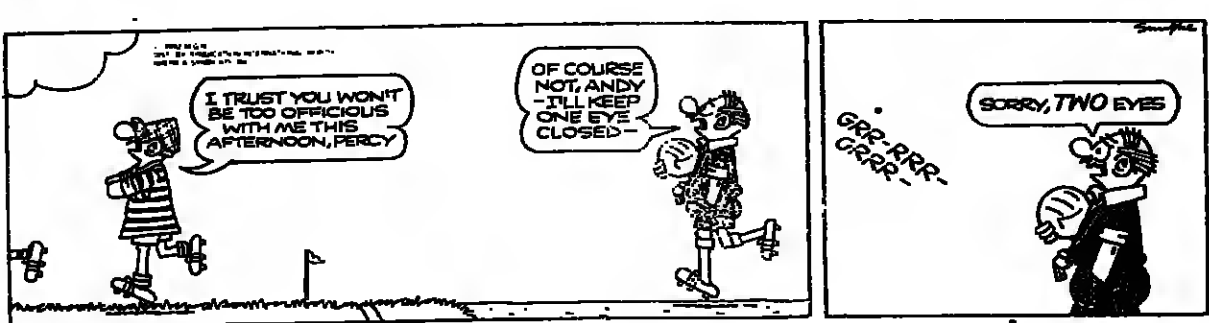
Ivanisevic faces Krajicek (1-1) and Boris Becker plays Stefan Edberg for the last remaining spot in the semifinals.

Pete Sampras (3-0), the defending champion, had already qualified before beating Petr Korda (0-3), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

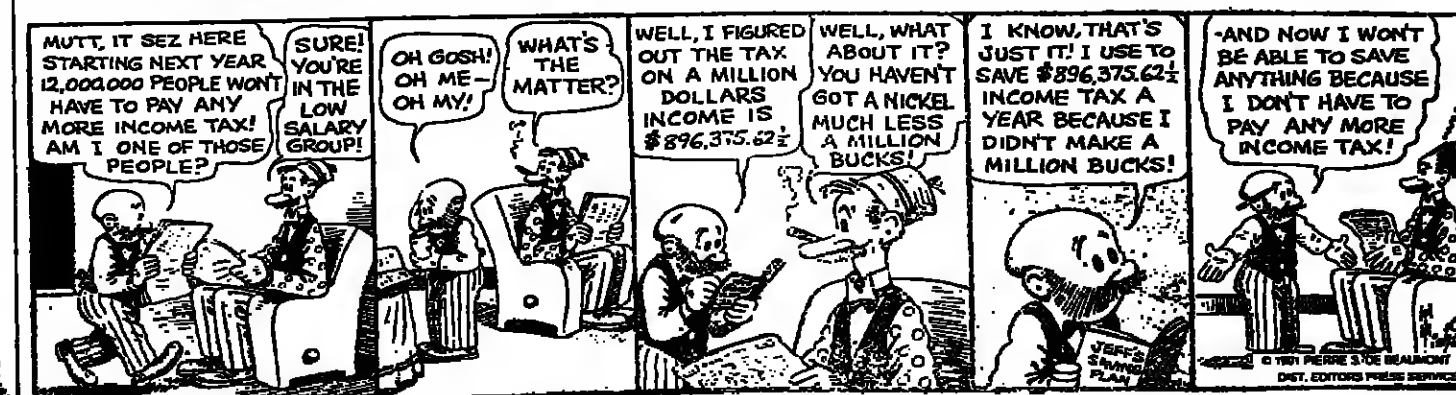
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Found.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The sun enters Sagittarius and conjuncts Mercury today indicating that you can join forces with good friends and thereby add to your prestige, pleasure and purposeful pursuits while socialising.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some excellent ideas just what you can do about extending your usual activities into more fertile and compensatory avenues and expressions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day when your mind can wisely be preoccupied with having more of this world's goods and you see how your own tasks can bring you these benefits.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your own personal relationship with one who has been a long time associate can be improved by entertaining or otherwise showing social helpfulness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A family member has you all rightly stirred up to make improvements in your promises made to have surroundings in better condition.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Long time pleasures are best for you now in conjunction with a good friend but make sure you have all arrangements clearly set out between you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look for the various home

improvements that you will make and then be very particular about arranging repairs and daily their cost.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your need for a wider group of allies can be aided, a friendly approach at the whom you want more allies you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about what you do to formulate a course of with the help of a confidant advisor that will put you being on easy street.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Conditions you have felt very tied down alleviated by discussing the an understanding friend a minute a situation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A bigwig, who driver in gaining worldly of, now will understand your ambitions and give you a right direction.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about what you do to join with a close one in going off to some different attracts each of you for enjoyment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you want to public or outside matter, the assistance of a dynamic who knows situations bar, and forwards.

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harry



"What kind of present is it, Stanley? A mustache? Sideburns? A new mouthwash?"

### JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob L.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CATUE

TASUE

AJURAG

HAIDAL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: CATUE TASUE AJURAG HAIDAL

Yesterday's Jumbles: BATON ROBIN PACKET ABSORB Answer: What was the title of the boxer's memoirs? "MY SCRAP BOOK"

### THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Barbrich



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

1 Across: Not really enough

2 Across: Lower as a sign of respect

3 Across: Famous member

4 Across: 50 Swamy ground

5 Across: 50 Swamy ground

6 Across: 50 Swamy ground

7 Across: 50 Swamy ground

8 Across: 50 Swamy ground

9 Across: 50 Swamy ground

10 Across: 50 Swamy ground

11 Across: 50 Swamy ground

12 Across: 50 Swamy ground

13 Across: 50 Swamy ground

14 Across: 50 Swamy ground

15 Across: 50 Swamy ground

16 Across: 50 Swamy ground

17 Across: 50 Swamy ground

18 Across: 50 Swamy ground

مَكْدَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



# Economy

## Financial Markets

**Jordan Times**  
In co-operation with  
**Cairo Amman Bank**

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
	Date: 18/11/92	Date: 19/11/92
Sterling Pound	1.5260	1.5265
Deutsche Mark	1.5900	1.5887
Swiss Franc	1.4472	1.4463
French Franc	5.3630	5.3356**
Japanese Yen	123.70	123.88
European Currency Unit	1.2391	1.2435**

USD/TRY 5TC  
European Opening at 8:30 a.m. GMT  
Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.12	3.75	3.81	4.00
Sterling Pound	7.00	6.67	6.50	6.57
Deutsche Mark	6.75	6.67	6.50	7.87
Swiss Franc	6.62	6.69	6.68	6.31
French Franc	9.31	9.37	9.06	8.56
Japanese Yen	3.75	3.68	3.62	3.62
European Currency Unit	10.18	10.19	9.75	9.12

Interbank bid rates for minimum trading 1 U.S. dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.  
Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	332.90	6.60	Silver	3.78	.050

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.687	0.689
Sterling Pound	1.0480	1.0532
Deutsche Mark	0.4357	0.4349
Swiss Franc	0.4747	0.4771
French Franc	0.1283	0.1289
Japanese Yen	0.5541	0.5569
Dutch Guilder	0.3647	0.3666
Swedish Krona	0.1126	0.1132
Italian Lira	0.0506	0.0509
Belgian Franc	0.02104	0.0215

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	0.03525	0.03825
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2900	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1816	0.1872
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7820
UAE Dirham	0.1861	0.1872
Greek Drachma	0.3315	0.3365
Cypriot Pound	1.4495	1.4695

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	17/11/92	Close	18/11/92	Close
All-Share	158.41		159.23	
Banking Sector	117.79		117.92	
Insurance Sector	175.49		176.02	
Industry Sector	210.65		212.69	
Services Sector	227.54		227.28	

December 31, 1991 = 100

## South Korea takes emergency measures to boost investment

SEOUL (AP) — Alarmed by signs of a protracted economic recession, the government has announced emergency measures totaling \$6.4-billion to boost investments, officials have said.

The measures indicate a major turnaround in the focus of the government's economic policy from stability to growth in the wake of surging business failures.

Economic policy-makers have for long rejected businesses' demands for more support, maintaining the economy is still in good shape.

The "emergency funds" for sharpening the manufacturing sector's competitive edge were unveiled by Deputy Prime Minister Choi Gak-Kyu in his report to President Roh Tae-Woo.

The funds, expected within months, include a \$1.3 billion foreign currency loan to help finance corporate purchases of locally manufactured machinery and another \$1.3 billion for exporters' investments in plants and equipment.

An additional \$1.9 billion will be offered this year to small and mid-sized companies with little access to bank loans due to their lack of collateral, the report said.

Other soft loans will be offered to companies which invest in automation or energy-saving equipment and projects viewed by the government as upgrading the country's manufacturing technology.

Mr. Choi said the measures were taken because "corporate spending on facility expansion and renovation has sharply slowed recently, threatening to erode the economy's growth potential and export capacity."

According to government figures, South Korean companies' investments in facilities this year were about 10 per cent lower than their original plans, reflecting the gloomy business mood.

The ministry of trade and industry also points to rising business inventories.

The government's recent policy to slow down economic growth through a tight monetary policy has significantly eased the country's twin economic problems of high inflation and huge trade deficits.

Economic growth rate fell from 9.3 per cent in 1990 to 3.4 per cent in 1991 and is expected to fall below seven per cent this year.

Businesses, however, have argued that the economy has passed the stage of cooling-down and entered into a recession phase, while demanding more support for companies, particularly small ones.

The Korea Federation of Small Business has said 180 small and mid-sized firms have closed or suspended their business activities in the first eight months of this year, up from 82 a year earlier.

"We welcome the emergency measures which were badly needed by the economy," said Kwon O-Yong, spokesman for the Federation of Korean Industries, representing most major corporations.

Mr. Kwon added the measures would have minimal effect unless the country's high interest rates, hovering at 13 per cent, are reduced to the international single-digit level.

## Currency tensions rise in Europe

LONDON (R) — Norway and Denmark boosted key interest rates Friday, after drastic action by neighbouring Sweden a day earlier, while investors, recalling turmoil that rocked markets in September, sought refuge in the German mark.

Currency dealers said weaker currencies in the European Monetary System (EMS) were again coming under pressure, with speculation on a realignment of parities in the European Community Exchange Rate Mechanism resurfacing.

"The whole EMS mechanism has started to shift again," one Frankfurt trader said.

Norway boosted its key overnight lending rate to 17 per cent from 10 per cent and Denmark raised its money market rates by 5.1 percentage points to 15 per cent. Central banks intervened to support both countries' crown currencies.

On Thursday, the Swedish crown fell after the authorities, bowing to market forces, let it float away from its link with the EMS and cut a key interest rate back down to 12.5 per cent. They had at first tried to stem speculative pressure by almost doubling the rate to 20 per cent.

The pound, outside the EC currency grid since Sept. 16, and dollar were largely on the sidelines, but the currency tensions helped send European stock markets lower.

## Russia sells 10% of small shops, firms

MOSCOW (R) — More than 10 per cent of shops and small businesses in Russia have been sold to an emerging private sector, international financial advisers said Thursday.

Well over half of the 14,222 newly privatised shops and firms had been sold by auction, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) said in a report.

"It is much, much more than we expected," Anthony Doran, manager of the IFC's European section told reporters. "In April nobody believed...there would be 14,000 new firms in Russia."

Russia launched its privatisation campaign this year as a key element in efforts to transform its centrally planned economy into a market system.

The sale of shops and small firms is the first step of the plan. A second, bigger stage gets under way later this year when Russians get a chance to use specially printed privatisation cheques to buy stakes in bigger firms.

The IFC, a unit of the World Bank, has been advising several Russian districts on auctioning off small businesses. Its figures put the number of such firms in Russia at 122,549. It said 8,499 firms had been sold by auction.

The IFC sell-off started in the once-closed city of Nizhny Novgorod on the Volga River. Further projects are under way in Volgograd in southern Russia.

A new series of auctions is due to start soon in the Siberian city of Tomsk.

Mr. Doran said the privatisation campaign had faltered in the spring, but gained steam again as the year went on.

"In late spring we were pretty cagey about whether the whole thing would collapse," he said. "You are privatising in the heart of communism and if somebody puts their head above the trenches they can get shot."

IFC officials admitted that newly privatised shops had often faced problems in obtaining supplies from state-owned distributors. Truck auctions in Nizhny Novgorod showed how the owners of private shops buying trucks to transport goods.

"You can attack Russia's problems by picking one point or you can try to solve the whole chain of problems at one time," Mr. Doran said. "Our approach is very simple. Give the problem to the person with most to gain from solving it."

A senior adviser to Russia has warned recently that the country was on the brink of hyperinflation and said it will need \$22 billion in foreign assistance next year to help prop up its increasingly shaky economy.

"The money supply has doubled in the last three months and that is a recipe for utter economic disaster," Jeffrey Sachs, a Harvard professor who acts as an adviser to the Russian government, said. "The whole country is going over the cliff."

He said Russia had agreed on the figure for the 1993 financing gap in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The \$22 billion comes on top of an estimated \$18 billion in foreign assistance that Russia is expected to receive this year from countries like the United States and from international institutions like the IMF.

Although the numbers are not directly comparable for technical reasons, it shows that Russia's financing needs are growing, not shrinking, as the country struggles to shift its economy from communism to capitalism.

"The financing gap may be a couple of billion dollars more next year if you do it on a completely comparable basis," Mr. Sachs told Reuters.

An IMF spokesman declined comment, but international monetary sources said that Russia's financing needs next year are likely to be a little larger than this year.

Mr. Sachs made clear, though, that he was more concerned about Russia's immediate future and agreed that the next six to eight weeks would be critical in determining the success of the country's efforts to prop up and reform its economy.

"They're headed for hyperinflation on the current path," he said.

Mr. Sachs has been consistently more concerned about Russia's economic woes than has the IMF, which the United States and its allies have given the lead role in helping remake Moscow's economy in the capitalist mould.

But recently, IMF officials seem to have turned more gloomy about Russia's economy as Russia's budgetary and credit policies have veered off course under pressure from state-owned companies worried about their survival.

Mr. Sachs said the inefficient state-owned companies that relied on the military-industrial complex for support have pressured the government and central bank into giving them cheap credits that will only end up fuelling inflation.

He was sharply critical of President George Bush for failing to marshal sufficient Western support for Russia's economic reforms. Western aid has been haphazard and concentrated on export credits that have not buttressed Russia's reforms.

Mr. Sachs said the West should direct much of its support to helping Russia finance its budget deficit and pay for social programmes like unemployment insurance that would aid those hurt by the needed economic changes.

The Russian adviser said the United States and other creditor nations should reschedule the former Soviet Union's \$70 billion in foreign debt to give Russia more time to pay.

But the rescheduling agreement should be conditional on Russia getting its reforms back on track and making a "firm commitment" to avoid self-destruction," he said.

## Japan's Sanwa Bank creates 'pet account'

TOKYO (AP) — Not satisfied with having only humans as customers, a leading Japanese bank has created savings accounts for other members of the animal kingdom.

Cats, birds, reptiles, and any other kind of pet could open a "pet account" at Sanwa Bank, Japan's leading city bank "as long as they have keepers," a bank official said.

The pets will get account books emblazoned with their names as well as special notebooks to keep pictures and personal data, said the bank official.

The official said the accounts were created for people who "care about pets as members of their family" and can be used to set aside money for pet expenses like food, haircuts, illnesses and funerals.

An average pet keeper in Japan spends 10,000-20,000 yen (\$80-\$160) for immunization shots, 10,000 yen (\$80) for trimmings, up to 600,000 yen (\$4,900) for training, 50,000 yen (\$400) for the funeral and 300,000 yen (\$2,400) to purchase a tombstone.

The Sanwa official said the accounts must be registered under the pet keeper's names. Sanwa will also issue cards for the automatic teller machines, but the official said they are meant to be used by the pet's keepers.

"We don't expect dogs to visit us to put their allowances in their accounts," he said.

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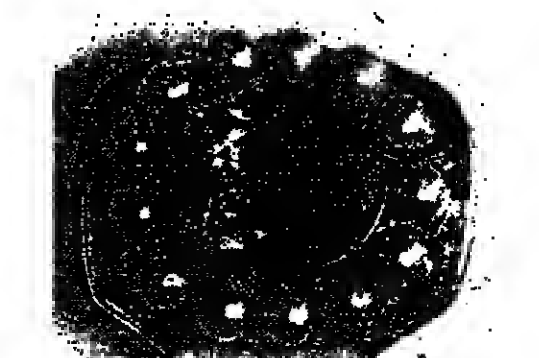
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## World News

## Sniper fire rakes Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Intense sniper fire raked central Sarajevo Friday after Serb gunners shelled Muslim and Croat sectors of the Bosnian capital during the night.

The gun fire was particularly heavy around the Bosnian parliament, destroyed by shelling during the seven-month siege of Sarajevo, but there was no immediate word of casualties.

The targets of the overnight barrage, in defiance of a ceasefire all three warring sides in Bosnia signed last week, were the Muslim districts of Dobrinja and Hrasno and Stup which is mainly populated by Croats.

Sarajevo Radio said Serb attacks had continued against provincial towns including Gradacac, Maglaj and Tesanj which have been under increasing pressure in what may be the final phase of the all-out war.

French U.N. troops fired back when they were shot at while escorting a humanitarian aid convoy in northwest Bosnia, a U.N. spokeswoman said Friday.

The incident occurred Thursday when civilians were unloading supplies at the village of Bosanska Krupa.

Shannon Boyd, United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokeswoman in Zagreb, said that French soldiers returned the fire and no casualties were reported.

"We were shot from the east and we returned around 30 rounds," French Colonel Robert Bresse told the Visnews television agency.

Reporters at the scene said intensive small arms fire erupted when civilians were unloading about 20 trucks. Two convoys had previously been unloaded with-

out incident.

A French officer, who asked not to be identified, said it was "a provocative fire from the Bosnian side trying to engage Serbs into fire."

Two armoured personnel carriers were hit but suffered only superficial damage.

"We are working in war zones, although our task is strictly humanitarian it is not surprising that this is happening but it's disappointing," Ms. Boyd said.

"Our overall experience is not that we (UNPROFOR) are directly targeted but it is a dangerous area of operations," she added.

British U.N. troops in central Bosnia were due to send a second relief convoy Friday to the besieged northern town of Tuzla which is in urgent need of food, medicine and materials to repair damaged buildings.

The first convoy Thursday came under fire while returning from Tuzla.

A mortar bomb hit the road about 300 metres from the U.N. aid convoy, lighting up the night sky amid automatic gunfire, including at least two tracer rounds.

"We saw the mortar tube firing, saw it as incoming, put our foot down and got out of what we thought was the killing area," said Captain Lee Smart.

It was not clear who was responsible for the shooting. The British troops escorting the convoy, did not return the fire although they had orders to shoot back if they were attacked.

It was the second U.N. relief convoy to come under fire in the former Yugoslav Republic in the last 24 hours.

In Geneva, a U.N. official said a convoy, escorted by Spanish

U.N. troops, came under attack in southern Bosnia Wednesday while taking food and emergency supplies to Sarajevo, no one was hurt but one damaged vehicle had to be left behind.

The Tuzla operation coincided with the failure of international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen to reach agreement with leaders of Serb-controlled areas of Croatia which have been put under U.N. protection.

"We failed to reach any agreement," the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency quoted Mr. Vance as saying in Knin, the seat of Croatia's Serb-held territory of Krajina.

The two co-chairmen of the Geneva conference on Yugoslavia were visiting Croatia to examine reasons for the failure of Mr. Vance's plan to demilitarise the three U.N. protection areas in Croatia, captured by rebel Serbs last year.

"Demilitarisation is out of the question," Bozo Martinovic, a local Serb official, said, arguing that the Serbs would be left open to a Croat attack.

In Washington, the United States said it would supply television broadcasting equipment to help the opposition to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, blamed by the West for the conflicts in former Yugoslav republics.

But it said this was not the issue of personalities but of policy. The United Nations has imposed sanctions on rump Yugoslavia, comprising Bosnia and Montenegro, to try to halt the fighting.

The purpose of the sanctions is to persuade the Serbian government, and indeed for the Ser-

bian people, to persuade their government to change its policies," U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Meanwhile the Western European Union (WEU) defence grouping seemed set Friday to implement a full naval blockade in the Adriatic to tighten the economic noose around the rump Yugoslavia, officials said.

A draft communique committed WEU members to order their aircraft and warships to ensure "strict implementation of the (United Nations) embargo at sea" against Serbia and Montenegro.

Delegates said the declaration, which has to be approved by WEU foreign and defence ministers, would spell out that this "will include stop and search actions and all other necessary measures."

This would give Western navies in the Adriatic the same powers as those used to enforce U.N. sanctions against Iraq after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The ministers decided that the WEU will contribute to implementation of Monday's U.N. Security Council resolution against Serbia and Montenegro.

"To this end, warships and aircraft of WEU members...will start operations aimed at ensuring strict implementation of the embargo at sea," the draft said.

The Security Council, frustrated at repeated violations of the embargo, Monday authorised warships to stop and search merchant vessels.

Until now, they have only been able to question them on their cargo and destination but have been barred from approaching.



Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (centre) and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi (right), former caretaker prime minister and member of the

National Democratic Alliance cover their faces to protect against tear gas during a march on the capital Islamabad (AFP photo).

## Police, army surround Bhutto's house

KARACHI (R) — The Pakistan army and police took up positions Friday around the Karachi home of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto after she vowed to take her long march to topple the government to the North West Frontier Province.

The North West Frontier Provincial government served a notice on Ms. Bhutto at her home late Thursday banning her from the province for 30 days in the interests of public order.

Opposition officials at the former prime minister's Bilawal House said she had not yet decided whether to defy the ban and go ahead with plans to lead a march from the provincial capital Peshawar to demand the removal of the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Troops took up positions on a roundabout in front of the house and several police vehicles were parked around the imposing white building and took note of all visitors.

The opposition leader was sent into internal exile in Karachi Thursday after the government banned her from the capital for 30 days when she tried to launch a march on Parliament House to topple a government she accuses

of corruption and rigging elections in 1990.

It was the first time in Pakistan history that the leader of the opposition had been banned from the capital, she said.

In Peshawar, police surrounded the airport and arrested local opposition Pakistan People's Party leader Afrab Sherpao.

Ms. Bhutto offered Thursday to halt her long march on parliament if the government held fresh elections.

"Talks should be on one point — fresh, free, fair and impartial elections," she said. "Dialogue cannot be held between blackmailers and blackmailers."

She pledged a second long march if the government did not agree.

Mr. Sharif told a cabinet meeting that a massive security clampdown on the capital and nearby Rawalpindi, the city from which Ms. Bhutto tried to launch her long march Wednesday, should be eased after another day, official sources said.

Opposition leaders' meeting in Islamabad said they would try to infiltrate the capital rather than take on the thousands of police head on.

More than 200 people were arrested in Rawalpindi when they tried to stage demonstrations Thursday, including 25 women who unfurled banners protesting against the government.

"The government has used brute force against peaceful and innocent people," Ms. Bhutto said Thursday. "It is the worst kind of state terrorism."

In Islamabad, the thousands of police and paramilitary who moved into the capital Wednesday removed most barbed wire barricades, but guarded main routes to the parliament house seeking shelter from thunderstorms under trees or umbrellas.

Opposition spokesman Salman Taseer, arrested after violent demonstrations in Lahore Wednesday, had been badly beaten in police custody, a visitor said.

"He was hung upside down from the ceiling, and beaten on the soles of his feet," the visitor said. "His feet are badly swollen."

Dozens of opposition party members, including members of the National Assembly (lower house), have been detained and thousands arrested in police sweeps across the country to prevent the march.

## Peace hopes rise, but rebel advance continues in Angola

LUANDA (R) — Hopes of restoring peace in Angola rose Friday after UNITA opposition leader Jonas Savimbi said he would accept the results of September's multi-party elections.

But the state-run Jornal De Angola, reporting on fighting over the last week, said Mr. Savimbi's forces were advancing on towns in the central province of Kwanza-Sul and Huila province to the south.

The newspaper said UNITA had killed 15 people, among them government soldiers, and kidnapped 17 civilians earlier this week in Malanje province east of the capital Luanda.

It said several provinces were without telecommunications.

In a letter to U.N. special representative Margaret Anstee, Mr. Savimbi said he was prepared to abide by a legislative vote won by the ruling MPLA and face a presidential run-off, although he still considered the poll fraudulent.

Ms. Anstee said the letter was a positive sign after weeks of political impasse — although Mr.

Savimbi did not say whether he would honour they May 1991 peace accords which he has violated since the vote by mobilising his troops across Angola.

The accords ended 16 years of civil war between UNITA and President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos' MPLA.

"It's a very important step forward," Ms. Anstee told reporters.

She said Mr. Savimbi wanted an enhanced role for the United Nations, which has been monitoring the peace agreements.

The two sides, Ms. Anstee said, had to meet directly to discuss demilitarisation and a shoring up of a shaky ceasefire in some areas. She planned to meet Mr. Savimbi Saturday in his headquarters in Huambo, Angola's second city.

Diplomats said Mr. Savimbi's letter was the first promising move in weeks of crisis which threatened to plunge Angola into renewed full-scale war.

"It is an encouraging sign but we have to see what happens next," said one Western diplomat, speculating that Mr. Savimbi may be

trying to gain time to mobilise forces.

U.N. peace monitors are due to leave by Nov. 30 but peacekeeping chief Marrack Goulding says they will stay on in a wider capacity if Mr. Savimbi accepts the election results and both sides agree to honour the truce.

Thousands of people died in fierce fighting three weeks ago and UNITA now controls more than 60 per cent of territory in the vast southwest African country.

The MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), which has ruled since 1975 independence from Portugal, won the Sept. 29-31 parliamentary vote. But Mr. Dos Santos narrowly failed to win over the 50 per cent necessary to avoid a run-off with Mr. Savimbi.

The government is holding a multi-party congress this weekend to prepare for the opening of parliament next week, the formation of a new national unity government and staging of a second presidential round.

UNITA has not officially confirmed it will send a delegation.

## Major fire sweeps Windsor Castle

WINDSOR, England (R) — A large fire swept through Queen Elizabeth's historic Windsor Castle just outside London Friday.

Eyewitnesses said up to a third of the castle, the monarch's favourite, could be threatened by the fire and thick black smoke was billowing into the sky.

Prince Andrew, the queen's second son, may be in residence but the queen herself was not at the castle, a spokeswoman at Buckingham Palace said.

There was one casualty reported initially and a fire brigade spokesman said there was "no suggestion" that the blaze had been caused by a bomb. London police have been on high alert after two Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb attacks were thwarted in the capital a week ago.

A spokeswoman for the fire brigade said the blaze had started in a private chapel used by the queen and her family.

There were more than two dozen fire engines at the scene. The queen usually spends the weekend at the castle, which has been used by the English sovereign for 850 years, and had been expected there Friday night.

Some officials speculated that workers doing refurbishment might have inadvertently started the fire.

The castle, a major tourist attraction, is being renovated, including electric rewiring, and officials said the fire might have started in the basement.

All staff and visitors were evacuated from the biggest inhabited castle in Europe which is open to the public when the monarch is not in residence.

"Smoke is billowing from the chapel. But we are now seeing as much steam as smoke," said eyewitness Ian Seymour about an hour after the fire started.

The flames and smoke could be seen for miles around.

There were fears for the priceless artefacts in the castle, which also has a rare collection of paintings by Rembrandt, Holbein, Rubens, Canaletto and other old masters.

"We do not yet know the extent of the damage," said a fire brigade spokeswoman. "We are waiting for further information."

One of the most striking features of the castle is St George's Chapel, built between 1475 and 1525, where many English

sovereigns, including Charles I, are buried.

The original castle was built around 1070 on a hill overlooking the Thames in Berkshire by William the Conqueror as one of a chain of strongholds to control the area around London.

The castle has been rebuilt over the centuries, but still retains the shape of the original fortified earthworks.

It was from Windsor Castle that King John went to nearby Runnymede in 1215 to set his seal on the Magna Carta, the document that set out the basic principles of government and monarchy.

The fire, reported at 11:37 GMT, was declared under control but still not extinguished about three hours later.

"It's confined to the northeast corner of the upper ward of the castle," a fire official said. "Within that section the fire is still burning but not out of control."

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there "was no suspicion" that the Irish Republican Army was involved, contrary to speculation by some American news media.

## COLUMBIA

## Clinton takes a jog through his new neighbourhood

WASHINGTON — President-Elect Bill Clinton took a morning jog through his new neighbourhood Thursday, singing his soon-to-be home as homeless people slept on the streets. Mr. Clinton stopped at McDonald's restaurant blocks from the White House, ate a cup of decaffeinated coffee and then, a hand, boarded a bus with commuters arriving for "God bless — I pray every night," said a McDonald's employee. "Please, need it. Thank you, I pray it," Mr. Clinton said. "I'm going for coffee. Mr. Clinton several minutes chatting with homeless men who he met in McDonald's. Mr. Clinton jog took him from the Adams Hotel across Park from the White House around the treasury building past the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. Mr. Clinton stopped at McDonald's morning jogs in Lin and appears likely to continue when he is in Washington next month. "I'm going for coffee. Mr. Clinton several minutes chatting with homeless men who he met in McDonald's. 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